

**A Door Into Hindi:
Web-Mounted Elementary Language Instruction**
North Carolina Center for South Asia Studies of the Triangle South Asia Consortium

Abstract

The Center for South Asia Studies of the Triangle South Asia Consortium (an educational cooperative of North Carolina State University, Duke University, the University of North-Carolina-Chapel Hill, and North Carolina Central University) proposes to develop a twenty-four lesson course in first year Hindi mounted on the World Wide Web. The course will be fully interactive multimedia presentation, which will integrate voice, audio, video, and writing tutorials in graded lessons that emphasize performance and proficiency in the language. Glossaries and reference grammar will be imbedded through hyperlinks, with additional access to on-line and downloadable dictionaries. A special enhanced version for classroom use will add fully interactive compressed digital televideo capability, language laboratory and computer-classroom master controls, and automated student monitoring, homework, and response features. This project will result in the equivalent of a two-semester university class in Hindi language that can serve as the basic text for classroom instruction, for supplemental tutorials and drills, or for self-instruction. Importantly, the program shell will be easily adaptable for other Less Commonly Taught Languages through an open-ended architecture that will allow for easy modification. While fully accessible on the current Web, the program has been conceived to take advantage of the latest technologies designed for the medium of Internet II, which delivers data at speeds up to 700 times the current Internet. A prototype of this net (called the Gigapop Ring Network) already connects the universities of the Consortium, and will be accessible to this project. By the end of the grant period, the new Internet II should be operational or very close, at which point the full multimedia capability of the program can be exploited. Importantly, the programming shell which manipulates and delivers the content of the courses will be created and documented as a regular package program that will be usable by any teacher of language using their own materials.